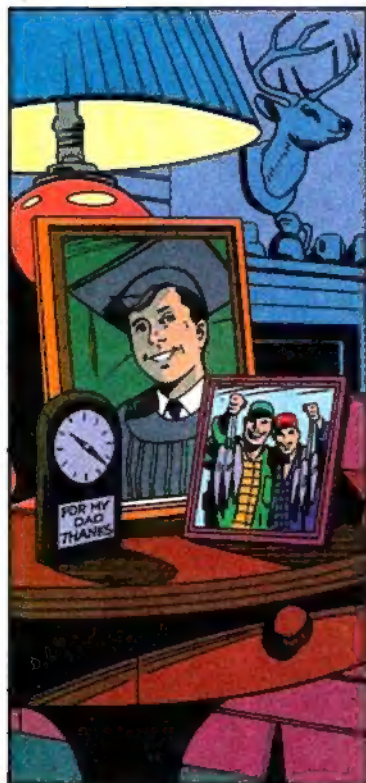


COSE





METROPOLIS,  
ONE  
HOUR  
AGO.



SHOWCASE '96 5, June, 1996. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. Copyright © 1996 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. For advertising space contact: East Coast, Tom Ballou, (212) 836-5520; Midwest, The Graffiti Group (312) 527-4040; West Coast, The Berman Company (818) 865-9708. Printed on recyclable paper. Printed in Canada.

DC Comics. A division of Warner Bros.—A Time Warner Entertainment Company



# FATHERS AND OTHER STRANGERS

DARREN VINCENTO-writer / STEVE ERWIN-pencil  
GERRY FERNANDEZ-inker / DAVE GRAFE-colorist  
KEN BRUZENAK-letterer  
CHRIS DUFFY & FRANK PITTARESE-edits



EDDIE SAID TO MEET HIM AT GATE 3, WHICH SHOULD BE RIGHT OVER...

...ANYTHING TO ADD TO YOUR STATEMENTS REGARDING YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE 100...

...CHANCES OF YOUR CLIENT TAKING THE STAND...

...SUCH A GOOD IDEA TO LEAVE METROPOLIS WITH THE PROCEEDINGS ONLY DAYS AWAY?

NO FURTHER COMMENT.



DO YOU FEEL THAT REPRESENTING THESE MEN MIGHT HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON YOUR SON?

NO COMMENT.

...TRUTH TO THE RUMOR THAT YOUR WIFE'S DEATH IS LINKED TO THE 100?

WOW.

TAKE SUPERMAN HOME



ELSEWHERE IN METROPOLIS

THIS HAD TO BE...



THE LONGEST DAY ON RECORD



SHOULD JUST GET RIGHT TO SLEEP

...LIVE WITH THE LATEST JANE?



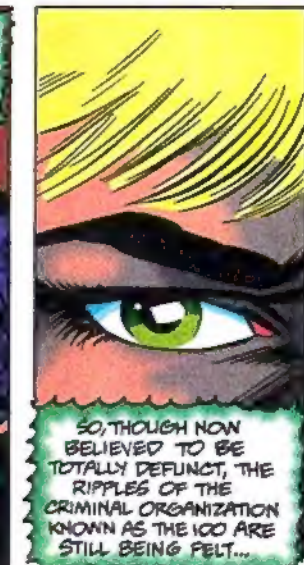
THE LAST OF THE TRIALS OF THOSE ACCUSED OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE 100 ARE UNDERWAY. BUT-



OUR SOURCES INDICATE THAT EVIDENCE IS SLIM AND DEFENSE ATTORNEY FRANK CHURCH, LONG CONNECTED TO SUSPECTED 100 MOBSTERS-



SEEN HERE LEAVING TOWN WITH HIS YOUNG SON FOR THE LONG WEEKEND, REFUSED COMMENT.

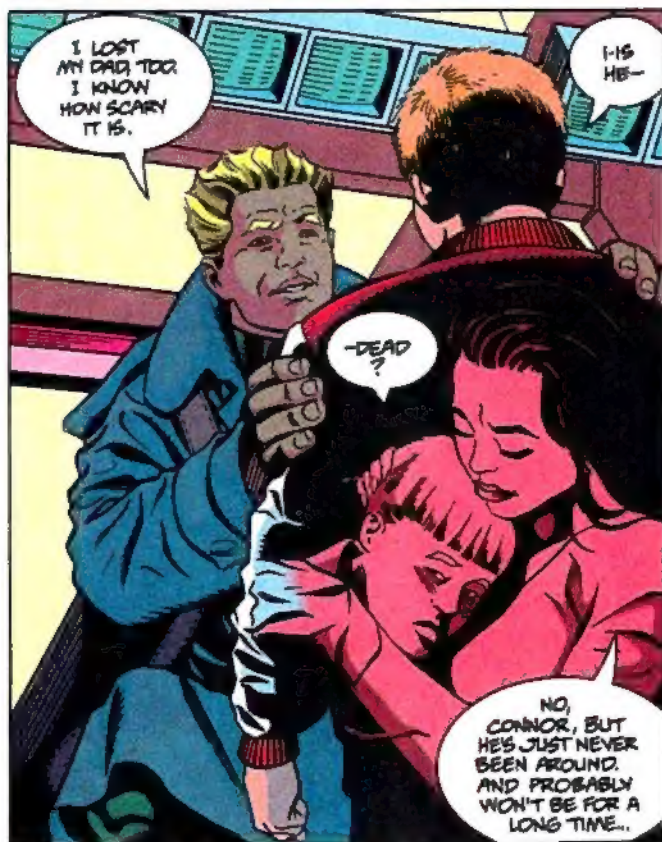


SO, THOUGH NOW BELIEVED TO BE TOTALLY DEFUNCT, THE RIPPLES OF THE CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THE 100 ARE STILL BEING FELT...

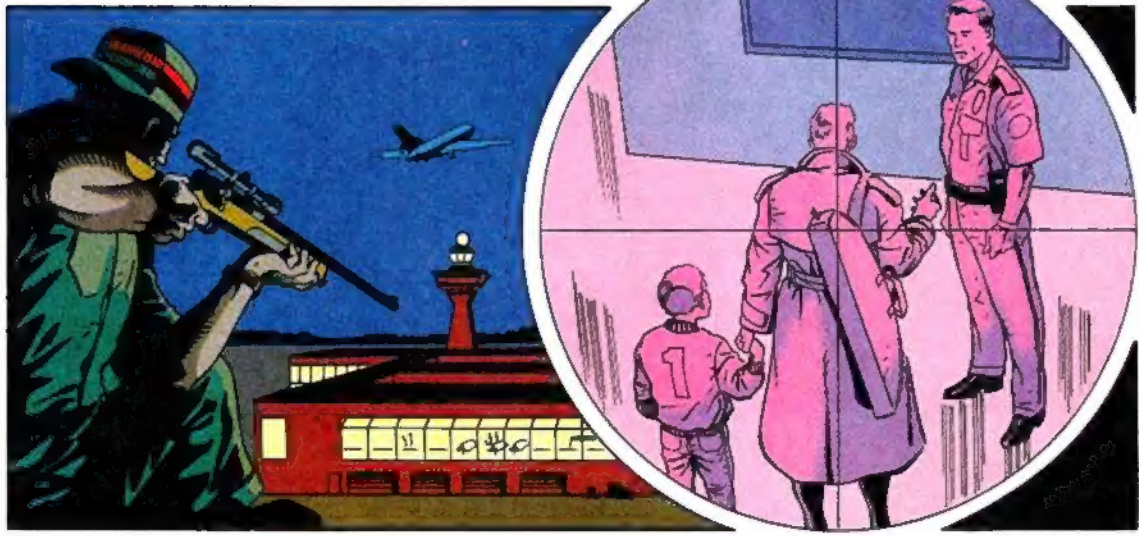








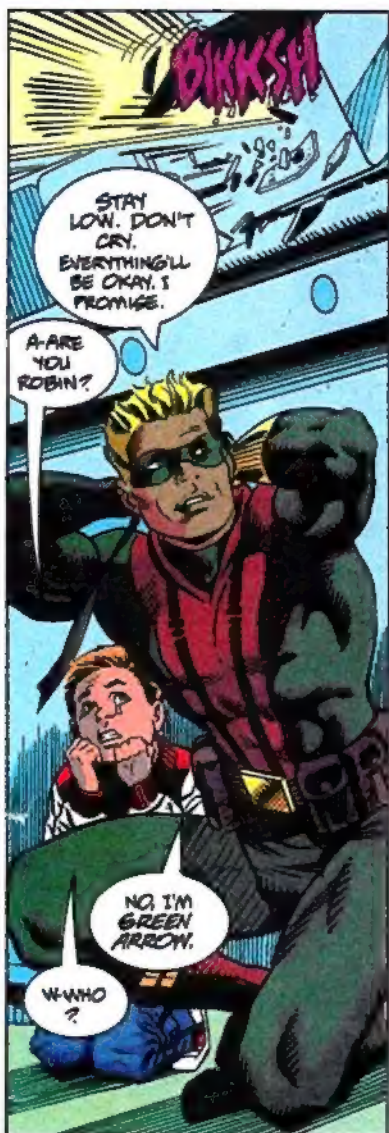












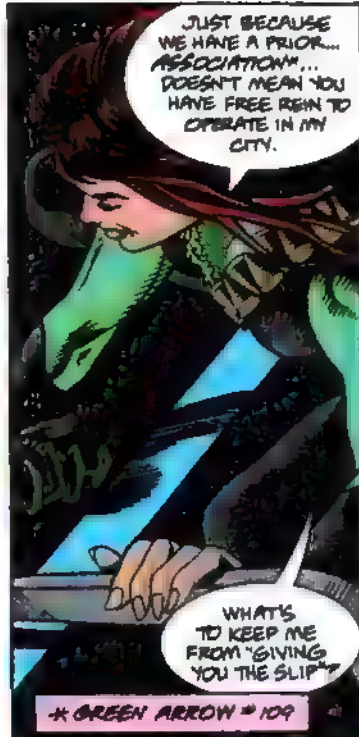




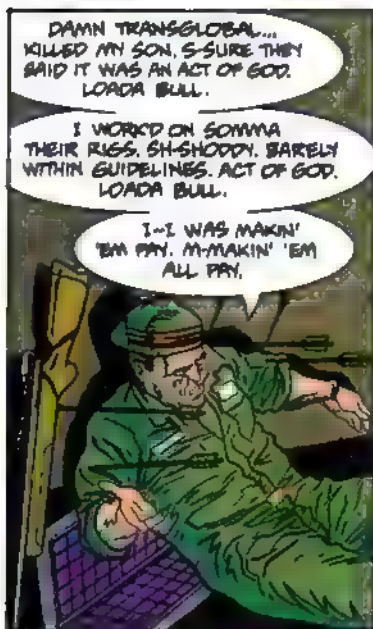




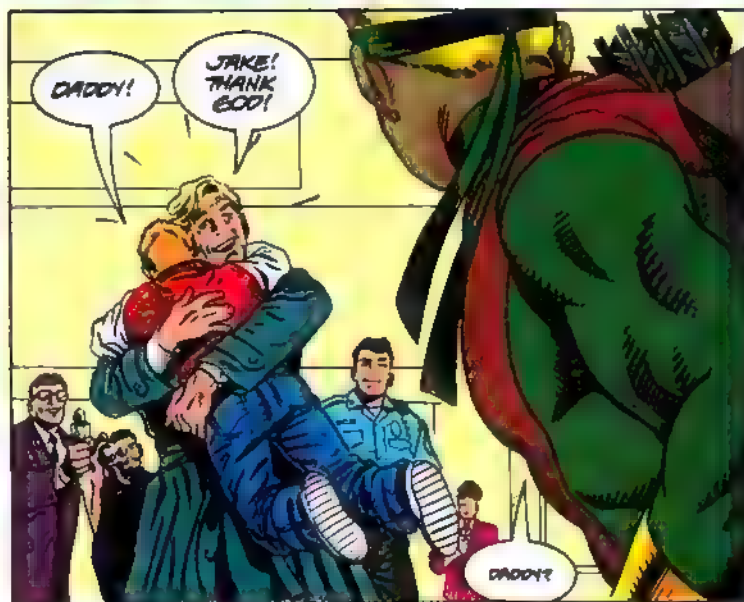
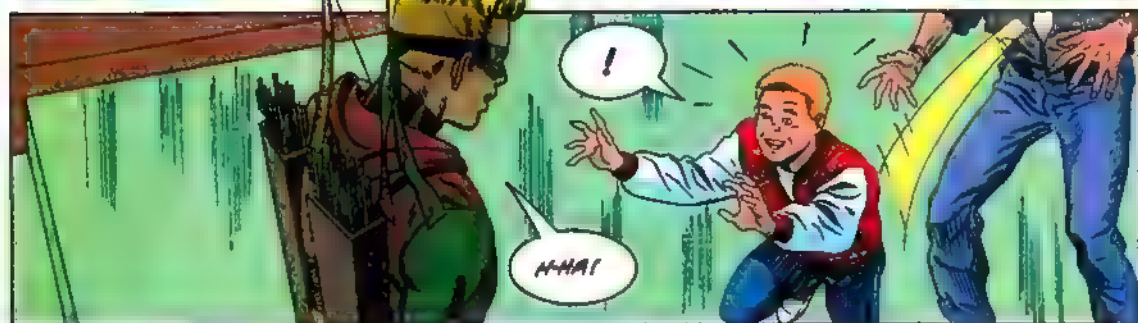




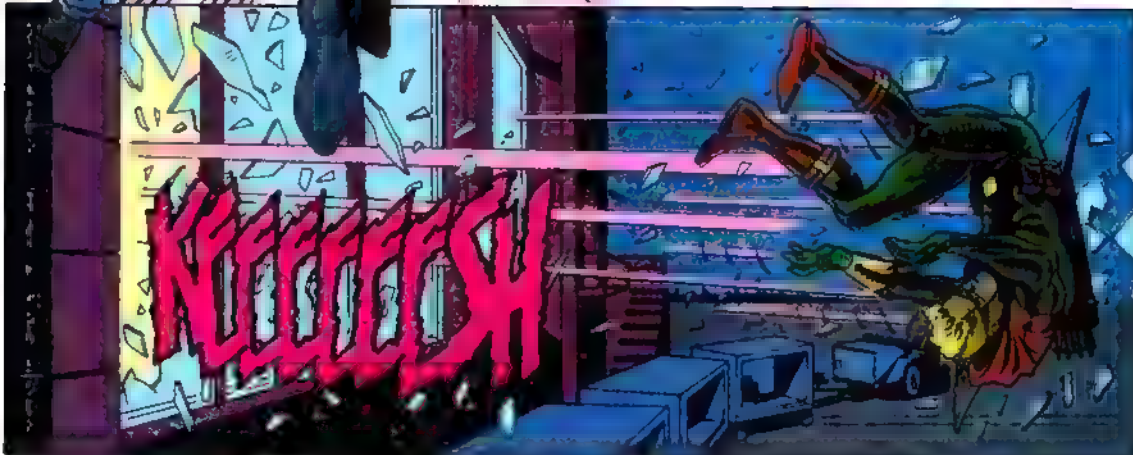
















THAT WAS MY FRIEND YOU JUST SENT TO THE TARMAC, LADY.

IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA GET A FREE SHOT AT THE KID'S DAD NOW, YOU'RE MISTAKEN.



YOU WERE VERY LUCKY WHEN LAST WE MET, SPOOK.

GOOD GUESS, LADY.

AND LUCK HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.



uhhh...uhhh...



THAT'S IT...



...GO FOR THE VITALS. NEVER ASSUME YOU'RE GOING TO GET A SECOND CHANCE.



HAVE... YOU EVER BEEN REALLY... AFRAID OF AN OPPONENT?

WHUMP





LET ME  
TELL YOU  
SOMETHING,  
KID.

I'VE BEEN  
APRAID OF  
EVERY  
OPPONENT.

A MAN  
WHO DOESN'T  
KNOW FEAR IS  
AS MAD AS A  
HATTER.  
FEAR KEEPS  
YOU  
SHARP.

FEAR  
KEEPS  
YOU  
ALIVE.



BUT YOU CAN'T LET  
FEAR TAKE CONTROL. IT'S  
A TOOL. EMBRACE IT.  
USE IT.



AND WHEN  
YOU'VE  
DEFEATED  
YOUR  
OPPONENT,  
LEAVE  
YOUR  
FEAR IN  
THE DUST  
BESIDE  
HIM.



"BECAUSE IF YOU LET YOUR  
FEAR TAKE OVER YOUR LIFE,  
AND MAYBE SOME INNOCENT  
LIVES, ARE YOUR OPPONENT'S  
FOR THE TAKING..."

THIS  
ENDS  
NOW!



YOU'RE  
SUN'S  
GOOD,  
LADY.

THAP!

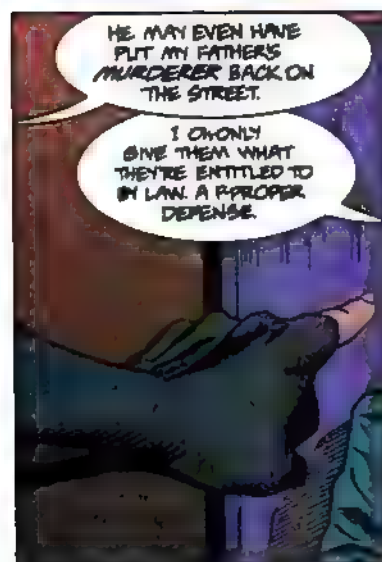
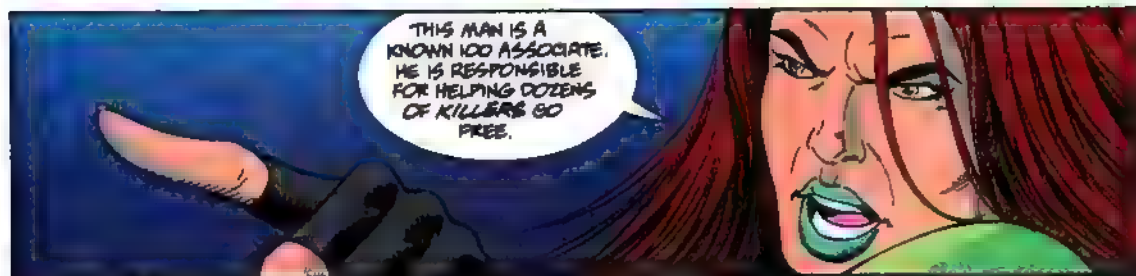
YOU HAVE NO STAKE  
IN THIS. WHY ARE YOU  
RISKING YOUR  
LIFE?



BECAUSE  
INNOCENT LIVES  
ARE ALWAYS  
WORTH  
DEFENDING  
WITH YOUR OWN,  
THORN.

WHAT  
TOOK YA  
SO LONG,  
KID?

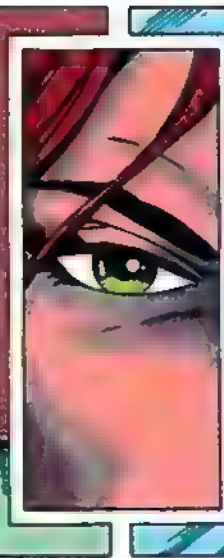








I'LL FIGHT TO THE DEATH IF NECESSARY.



WHA-



when



THANK YOU. WE OWE YOU OUR LIVES.

BYE-BYE, CONNOR.

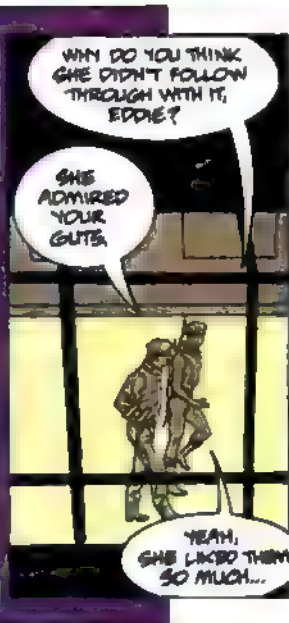
TAKE CARE, JAKE.

GUTSY STAND YOU MADE BACK THERE, KID



MY FACE MAY HAVE LOOKED GUTSY, BUT MY HEART WANTED TO RUN.

YOUR FEET MAY HAVE WANTED TO RUN, BUT YOUR HEART DIDN'T.



WHY DO YOU THINK SHE DIDN'T FOLLOW THROUGH WITH IT, EDDIE?

SHE ADMIRERD YOUR GUTS.

YEAH, SHE LIKED THEM SO MUCH...



...SHE WANTED TO STREED THEM OUT ON THE FLOOR AND LOOK AT THEM.

I KNOW YOU, AND I KNOW THE BLOOD THAT RUNS THROUGH YOU. WHEN LIVES DEPEND ON YOU, YOU DON'T BACK DOWN.

I GUESS.

BUT I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING EDDIE...

...FROM THE LOOK OF BLOODCLUST IN HER EYES, I'M NOT SURE I COULDN'E BEATEN HER.

END



IT WAS AN  
INTERESTING  
NIGHT

SINGULAR.

A TERM ACQUAINTANCES  
SAY I USE TOO OFTEN. YET IT  
WAS TRUE OF THAT HOUR.  
INDEED.

I HAD FOUGHT  
THE TWO FLASHES

I HAD BEEN SNATCHED FROM  
THE MELEE BY FATE... DR. FATE  
THAT IS, THE MADE OF OLD.

THERE WAS A CULT. THE WISE  
FOLK CRAZED AND CRUEL AS  
CULTS CAN SOMETIMES BE.  
THEY HAD SOME MAGIC AT THEIR  
DISPOSAL. THEY WANTED MORE.

THEIR GUARDS WERE MAGICALLY  
TRANSFORMED BEAST-MEN.

THE POWER THEY DESIRED... WAS SHADOW  
POWER. THE SAME AS I WIELD. AND THEY  
WOULD DRAIN THE ENERGY OF SOULS TO DO  
THIS. SIPHONING A LITTLE FROM THE SOUL  
OF EVERY LISTENER TO A RADIO STATION  
THEY USED, THEY WOULD GAIN THE  
POTENCY TO RECREATE THE SAME SPELL  
THAT ONCE MADE ME.

THEY USED AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED  
CULP TO DO THIS. HE, A FELLOW  
WHO KNEW ME OF OLD... WHO KNEW  
MY ORIGIN.

HE WAS THERE AT  
THE TIME, AFTER ALL

AND HE WAS MY PRIZE. THE REASON I  
ACCOMPANIED FATE, AS HE ATTEMPTED  
TO PERFORM A SPELL OF CONFINEMENT  
FOR THE CULT'S SHADOW RITE

I WANTED CULP. I WANTED  
HIS HEAD IN MY HANDS.

AND AS THE RADIO CHAT-  
LINE CHATTERED... WITH PEOPLE'S  
PROBLEMS AIRED AND ADVICE  
GIVEN...

WITH HIS BODY  
DETACHED AND SOME-  
WHERE ELSE.

...SO WE  
BEGAN OUR  
ASSAULT.

THE SHADOW AND DR. FATE  
IN THE WINDS OF THE WEST PAST

## DAY & NIGHT DARK & BRIGHT

JAMES KORTSON WRITER

MATT SMITH ART

MELISSA FORD AND TERRY

CHRIS ELLIOPoulos LETTERER

CHECK KIM EDITOR


BARRY WALKO











WAIT! WAIT!  
DON'T LOOK ME  
OUT, I'M--

MY FRIEND  
EDDIE, HIM AND ME  
HAVE A BET GOING  
WE HOPE YOU CAN  
SETTLE.

YOU KNOW  
THE ORDER OF THE  
EASTWOOD/LEONE  
WESTERNS?


"FISTFUL OF  
DOLLARS FOR A  
FEW DOLLARS MORE,  
THE GOOD, THE BAD  
AND THE UGLY."

YEAH, BUT EDDIE SAYS  
THAT "THE GOOD, THE BAD  
AND THE UGLY" COMES FIRST  
IN TERMS OF WHEN EAST-  
WOOD'S CHARACTER HAS  
THE ADVENTURES, EVEN  
THOUGH IT WAS THE LAST  
MOVIE ACTUALLY FILMED.

'N'I SAY THAT  
FISTFUL IS EASTWOOD'S  
FIRST MOVIE AND THE  
CHARACTER'S FIRST  
AND THEY HAPPEN IN  
ORDER.

NO!  
SHUT  
IT!

KEEP  
THEM  
OUT!




SORRY, MAN, EDDIE'S  
RIGHT, GOOD, BAD, UGLY  
HAPPENS DURING THE  
CIVIL WAR, AND AT THE END  
OF IT EASTWOOD GETS HIS  
FAMOUS PONCHO, PLUS IN  
"FOR A FEW DOLLARS MORE,"  
VAN CLEEF PLAYS AN EX-  
CIVIL WAR VET.

WE SHOULD  
BE SAFE  
NOW

WHAT WAS  
YOUR WAGER,  
ANYWAY?

LOSER HAS TO  
MEMORIZE ALL THE  
DIALOGUE IN THE  
COWBOY WAY.

OOOH...  
YOU BOYS PLAY  
ROUGH.



DEAR DOCTOR, I  
COULD EASILY USE MY  
SHADOW REALM TO  
VANISH FROM HERE AND  
REAPPEAR ON THE INSIDE.  
SO ACCESS TO THIS  
PLACE ISN'T MY  
CONCERN HOWEVER...

...I DO ENJOY AN  
ENTRANCE, DON'T YOU?  
SOMETHING WITH  
PANACHE.

MIGHT  
YOU OBLIGE  
ME?



AS YOU  
WISH.  
PANACHE  
NDEED.




# PHASOR

HOW  
UTTERLY...  
UTTERLY...


...DIVINE!






ALL RIGHT, SHADE. I'VE DONE AS YOU ASK, NOW DO AS I BID. ATTACK.

OF COURSE YOUR SERVANT.



NOW LET ME THINK, HOW SHALL I DO THIS? SHADON VOID OR WRAITHS? HMMM.

WILL YOU GET ON.



OH, FATE, NO. DON'T DISAPPOINT ME BY BEING A PLEBEIAN. THIS SORT OF THING TAKES A TAD OF FORE-THOUGHT. YOU MUST SEE THAT.

FOR LET IT NEVER BE SAID THAT I AM WITHOUT FLAIR.



NOW.

CULR.

WHERE ARE YOU?







THEY WANT ME TO STORE THE CARS AT MY GARAGE.

STOLEN CARS?

CULP.  
WHERE?

ONE. HE BEGAN THE SHADOW RITE AND THEN HE DEPARTED. HE SAID YOU MIGHT COME, AND FEARED THE ENCOUNTER.

YEAH. BUT IF THE COPS FIND OUT, MY PAROLE COULD GET BUSTED.

MMM, CULP ALWAYS DID HAVE VISION, AND A STRONG STREAK OF COURAGE.

SO WHERE IS THE SHADOW BEING CREATED? AND HOW MUCH? AND WHO WOULD YIELD IT? ONE SUCH AS YOU?

THE CENTRAL CHAMBER, WHERE THE RECEIVER FROM THE RADIO BROADCASTS IS STORED.

AND HOW MUCH HAS SO FAR BEEN CREATED?

SEE FOR YOURSELF.

WHO'S ITS MASTER?

MASTER? CULP SAID NOTHING ABOUT IT NEEDING A MASTER.

SO TELL THE CAR THIEVES TO GET LOST.

THEY THREATENED MY FAMILY.

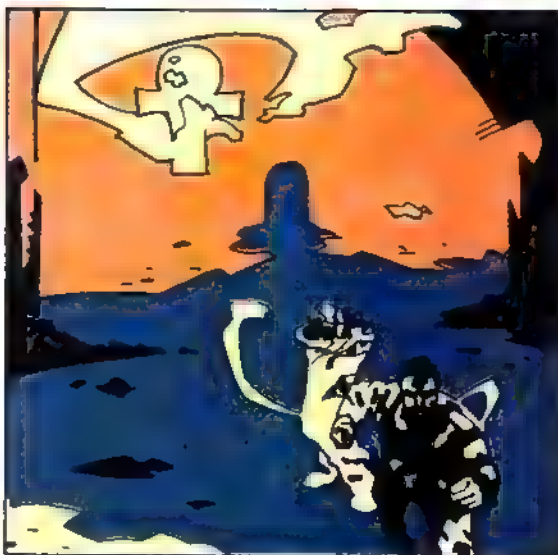
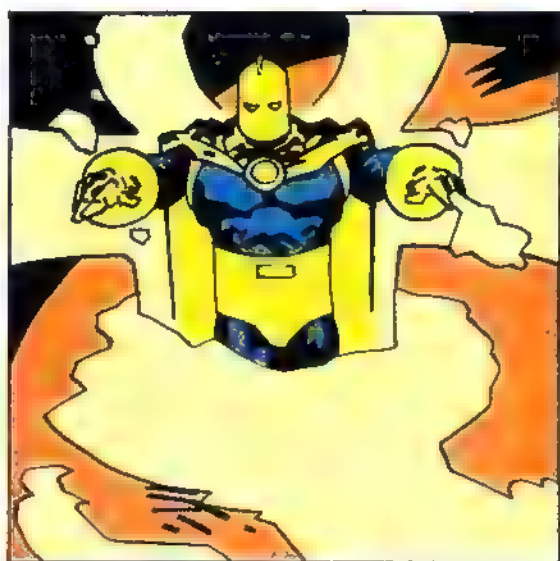
MY GOD.

MAN, SO YOU GOT A GARAGE OF GRIEF.

FATE IS THIS IT? WHAT YOU'VE BROUGHT ME TO FIGHT?

YES, I SUPPOSE IT IS.

THEN BE ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS WHILE I TEND TO IT. BE QUICK, THOUGH, THERE'S A GOOD CHAP.





RAW DARK.  
THIS PLACE IS  
DROWNING IN  
IT.

I'M  
JUST SO  
TIRED.

THERE'S WORK THEN I  
COME HOME AND THERE'S  
THE KIDS, AND MY HUSBAND  
HASN'T HAD A JOB IN A  
YEAR, AND HE DOESN'T DO  
ANYTHING AROUND THE  
HOUSE.

WE WILL  
HARNESS ITS MIGHT,  
AND BRING THIS  
COUNTRY TO ITS  
KNEES.

OH NO...

... YOU'LL  
DIE HERE, AND  
NO ONE WILL  
KNOW YOU EVEN  
LIVED.

AND I FEEL SO LONELY,  
BUT THERE'S NEVER ANY  
TIME OR MONEY TO DO  
ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

AND I HATE  
TO COOK  
NOWADAYS BUT  
IF I DON'T,  
WHO WILL?

FATE. CALL ME A  
NAB, BUT THAT SPELL  
OF CONTAINMENT  
WOULD COME IN  
NICELY ABOUT NOW.

AND.

AND.

YES,  
TERRI.

PATIENCE.  
SHADE.  
PATIENCE...

I HAVE  
SLEEPING TABLETS.  
FIFTY SAVED. IT WOULD  
BE SOOO EASY TO  
JUST WASH THEM  
DOWN WITH SOME  
LIQUOR.

... S  
GOLDEN.

AND SAY  
GOOD-BYE TO  
EVERYTHING.

WELL,  
THAT WAS  
PRETTY.

AND  
EFFECTIVE.

THE DARK IS GONE,  
BUT NOT DESTROYED.  
IT EXISTS NOW ON A  
DIFFERENT PLANE OF  
EXISTENCE, GROWING AND  
GETTING STRONGER AND  
WILDER, WITHOUT A  
MASTER TO TAME IT.

PERHAPS I'M A  
GLASS IS HALF FULL  
TYPE OF CHAP, BUT  
THAT SEEMS ACCEPT-  
ABLE TO ME AT  
LEAST IT ISN'T  
HERE.

PERHAPS,  
BUT WHAT I  
DON'T HAVE  
IS GUILT.

YOUR HELP  
IS APPRECIATED.  
FOR A VILLAIN,  
YOU HAVE  
SPIRIT.

I'M SORRY  
I'D INTENDED  
YOU TO HAVE YOUR  
PRIZE.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.  
OUR PATHS WILL  
CROSS, ONE DAY.  
AFTER ALL, GUILT  
AND I...

...WE HAVE  
FOREVER.

THE END



IN THE EARLY DAYS  
OF NEW GENESIS...  
BEFORE THE WARS...  
BEFORE THE FALL...

...WHEN IZAYA THE  
INHERITOR MOVED THE  
GODS FROM THE  
SURFACE TO THE SKY...

HE WENT TO THE GODDESS KNOWN  
AS ATINAI THE PURE, AND GAVE HER  
THE POWER TO BUILD-- TO CREATE--  
A PERFECT CITY OUT OF DIVINE  
THOUGHT.

AND WHEN THEY HAD FINISHED  
RAISING THE CELESTIAL CITY,  
AND IZAYA TURNED HIS MIND TO  
OTHER MATTERS, ATINAI MOVED  
TO HER PRIVATE GARDEN, FAR  
FROM THE TOWERS.

FOR NOW IT WAS TIME  
FOR OTHER GODS TO  
EXPLORE THIS CITY...

INCLUDING ONE AS  
OLD AS THE FIRST  
LIGHT OF CREATION

...AND AS YOUNG  
AS THE SUNRISE.

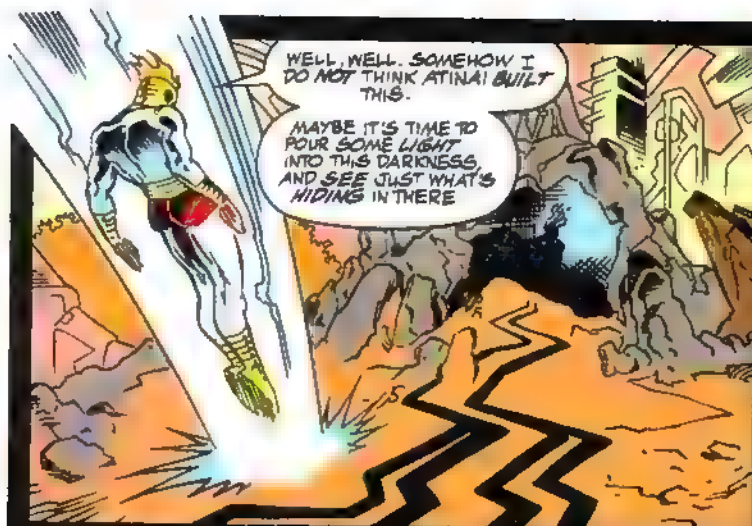
LIGHTRAY,  
OF THE NEW  
GODS!

AH, ATINAI! SWEET  
PURE ATINAI! WHAT  
A GLORIOUS GIFT  
YOU HAVE GIVEN  
US!

ONLY HER  
BELOVED  
OWL,  
NARVA,  
CAME WITH  
HER

WHAT? ARE THOSE  
SHADOWS OR  
SNAKES?

EITHER WAY, I  
DON'T THINK ATINAI  
INTENDED TO  
CREATE THEM



WELL, WELL. SOMEHOW I  
DO NOT THINK ATINA! BUILT  
THIS.

MAYBE IT'S TIME TO  
POUR SOME LIGHT  
INTO THIS DARKNESS,  
AND SEE JUST WHAT'S  
HIDING IN THERE

SSSEE, LIGHTRAY? I WILL  
LET YOU SSEE ME BUT  
YOU WILL NOT NEED YOUR  
PRECIOUS LIGHT.



AHH!

# CAGES AND SHADOWS

RACHEL POLLACK - WRITER  
JASON ARMSTRONGS - PENCILLER  
BRIAN GARVEY - INKER  
KEN LOPEZ - LETTERER  
GENE D'ANGELO - COLORIST  
CHRIS EADES - EDITOR

THE NEW GODS created by  
JACK KIRBY

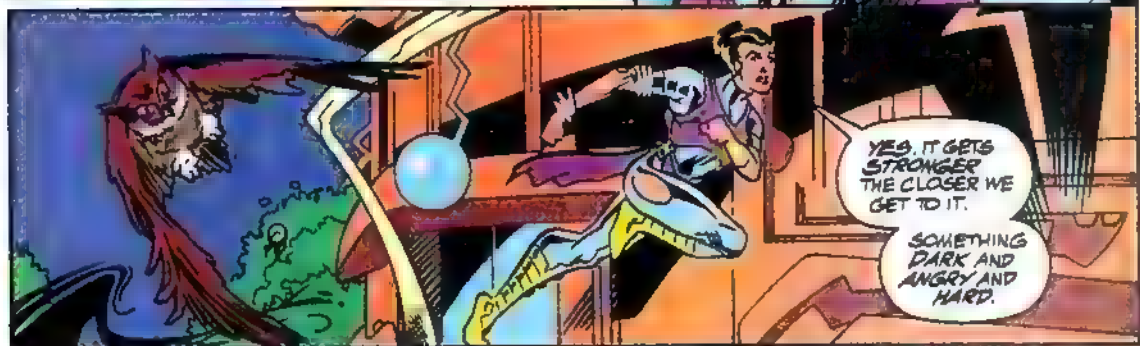




NARVA?  
WHAT WAS  
THAT?

THERE  
IS SOMETHING  
WRONG, NARVA.  
CAN YOU SENSE  
IT?

SOME  
PRESENCE  
HAS INVADIED  
MY CITY.



YES, IT GETS  
STRONGER  
THE CLOSER WE  
GET TO IT.

SOMETHING  
DARK AND  
ANGRY AND  
HARD.

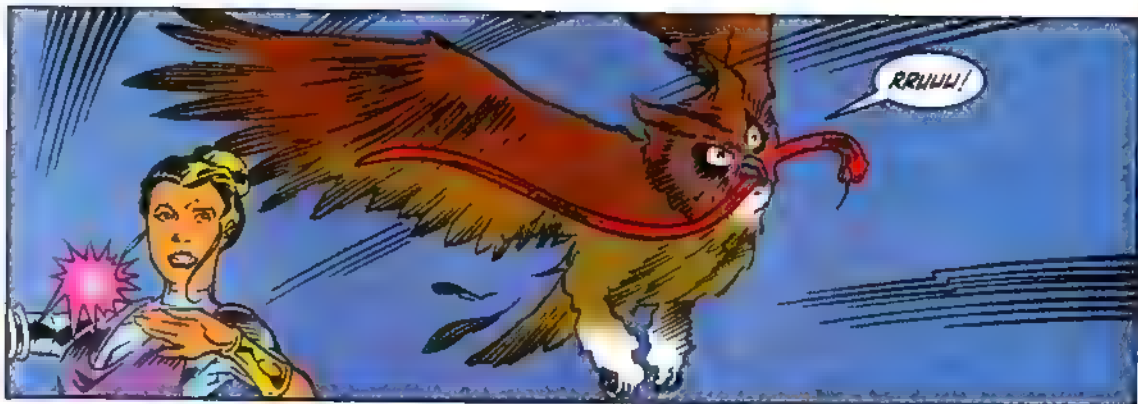


HERE, THIS IS NOT  
THE CENTER, BUT A  
CONCENTRATION.

LOOK WHAT  
HAS HAPPENED  
TO THOSE POOR  
FLOWERS.

KISS!

OH!



RRUUU!



THANK YOU, NARVA. NOW LET US DISCOVER THE REAL TRUTH IN THIS PLAGUE OF SERPENTS.



THEY APPEAR TO BE GOING SOMEWHERE SHALL WE FOLLOW THEM?



SO, A PLACE IN MY CITY, AND I NEVER BUILT IT.

BUT I'M BEGINNING TO GUESS--

...THAT STATUE! NO!



OH, LIGHTRAY, I AM SO SORRY.

NOW I KNOW WHO HAS DONE THIS. AND I ONLY WISH I COULD HAVE GOTTEN TO HER BEFORE YOU DID





M'DWILLS!  
SISTER! I CAN  
TASTE YOUR  
MALEVOLENCE!

COME INTO  
THE LIGHT  
AND FACE  
ME!



HALF-SSISTER, ATINA!  
HALF, AND I DO NOT  
NEED TO FACCE YOU  
TO HURT YOU.

WE MAY  
HAVE HAD  
THE SSAME  
MOTHER—

—BUT MY FATHER WAS  
DEATHNIGHT, OF THE  
SHADOW ELEMENTS."

"YOU KNOW OF THEM, DON'T  
YOU, LITTLE HALF-SISTER?  
THE TERRORS HIDDEN IN ALL  
YOUR PIOUS NEW GOD  
NALLELLUTAH'S?"

"THEY ARE THE REAL POWERS—  
THE FORCESS WHO RULED  
THE NOTHINGNESS BETWEEN  
THE FIRE DEATH OF THE OLD  
GODS AND THE CLEAN,  
SHINY BIRTH OF THE NEW."

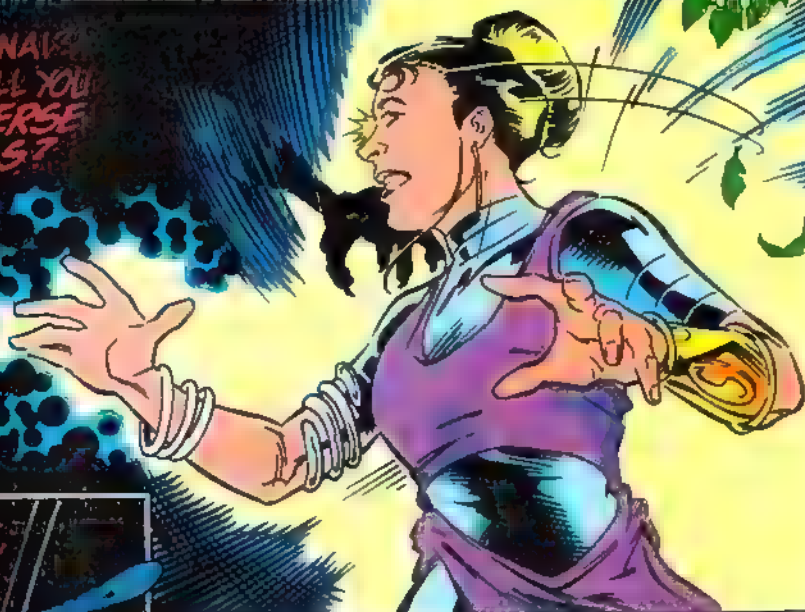
SHALL I FACCE YOU?  
IZAXA YOUR "HIGH FATHER"  
IS NOT HERE TO PROTECT  
YOU, NOR IS OUR SAINTLY  
MOTHER.

DO YOU THINK THE  
SSWEET LIGHT OF ATINA!  
THE PURE CAN SSAND  
AGAINST A DAUGHTER OF  
DESTRUCTION?





BEAUTY, ATINAI  
THEN WHAT WILL YOU  
DO TO THE UNIVERSE  
OF UGLINESS?



GOODBYE,  
ATINAI THE  
BUILDER.

OH, YOU  
WON'T DISMISS  
ME AS EASILY  
AS THAT,  
SISTER.

DO YOU SEE?  
THIS IS MY CITY,  
AND I WILL NOT  
LET YOU HARM  
MY FRIENDS.



SWEET NARVA, PLEASE  
TEND TO MY SISTER'S  
PETS. IT IS TIME SHE  
CAME INTO THE LIGHT.

COME FORTH,  
M'DRUS. COME  
FORTH AND  
TAKE BACK  
YOUR  
DESTRUCTION!

KRUU!

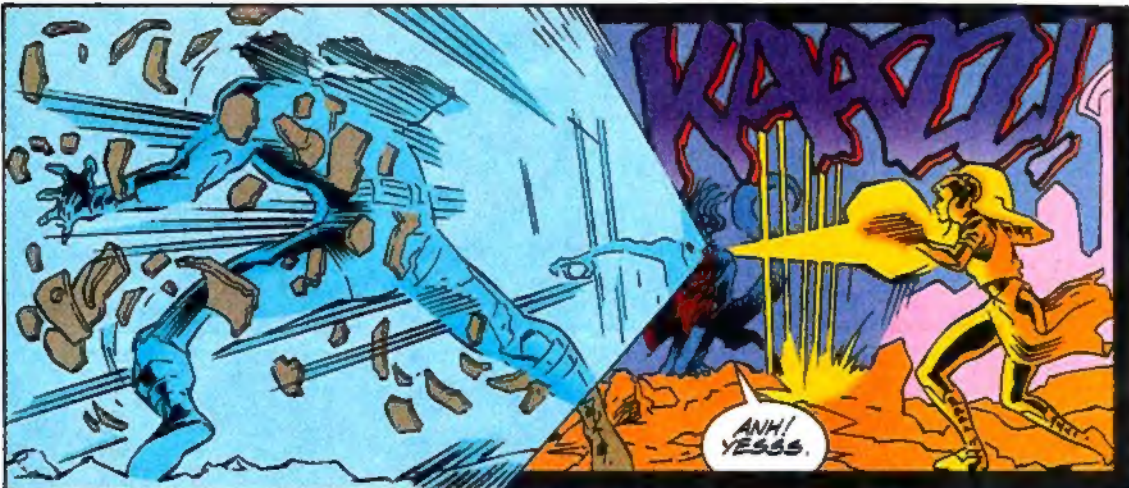
NEVER!  
I WILL  
NEVER  
DO THAT.

OH, BUT YOU WILL.  
FOR I COMMAND YOU,  
WITH ALL THE DIVINE  
POWER OF THE  
CELESTIAL CITY!

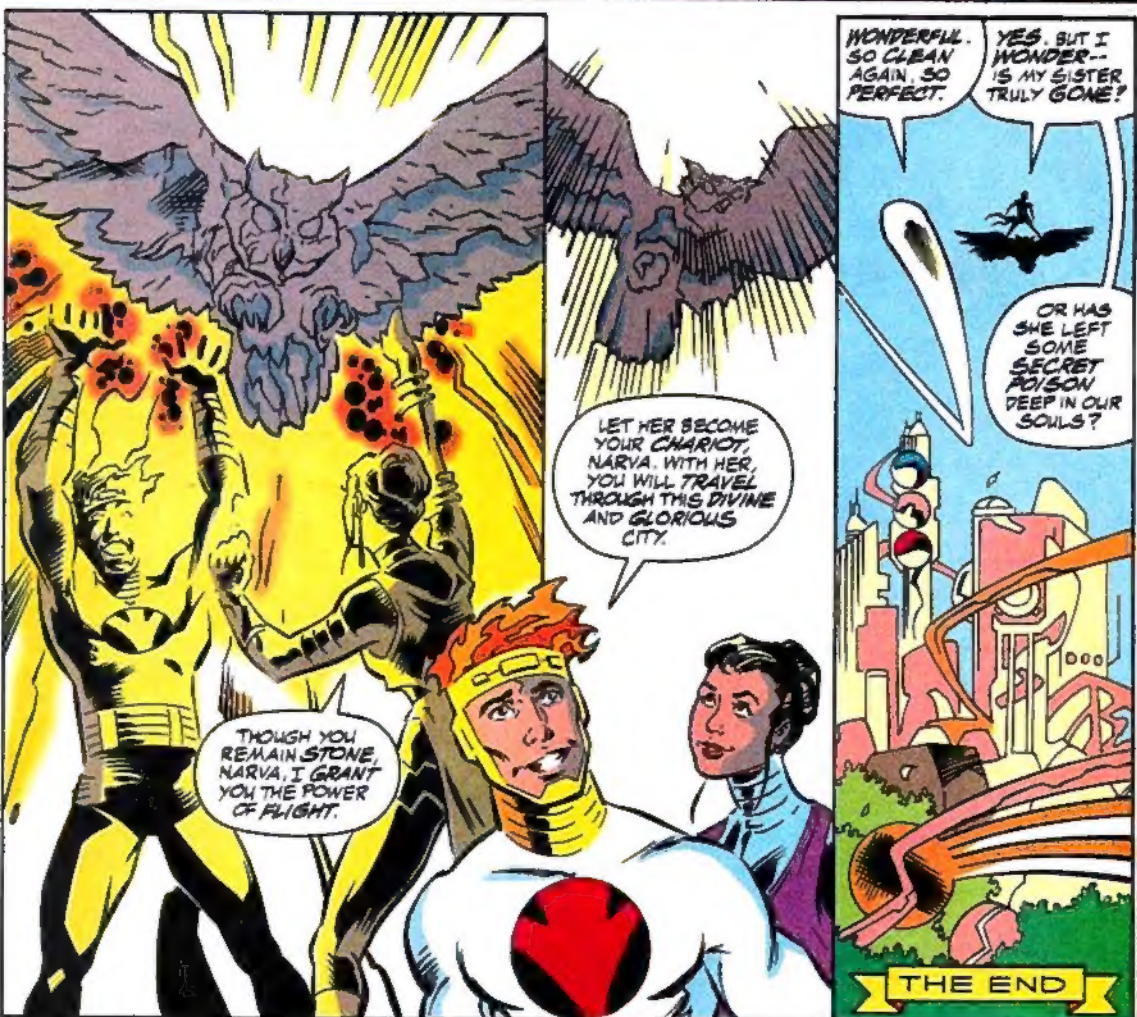
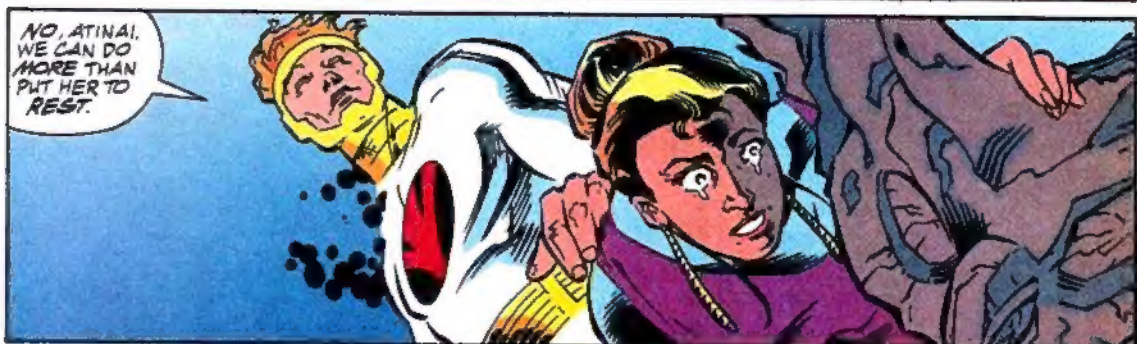
RESTORE  
HIM! NOW!

ALIVE!











# CASE STUDIES

We've got mail here on part two of the titanic team-up between Guy Gardner and Steel. We here at Case Studies were very pleased with the responses that we got. Sad to say, however, there weren't that many responses. As we stumble into '96, the mailbag is woefully tiny each month... so write! Tell us what you think! Tell us what you like! Tell us what you don't like! Tell us what you had for breakfast! Send us recipes! I think you guys get the idea.

Dear Frank & Jason,

Whoa! The lead story in SHOWCASE '96 #2 was one hell of a slugfest! The pairing of Guy Gardner and Steel, as we've seen before in WARRIOR, is one that can only be compared to the classic Green Lantern/Green Arrow stories from the 1970's. These guys have a sense of humor! These guys kick butt! I guess the best things about this story, aside from the top-notch art job by Sergio Cariello and Rob Leigh, and aside from the witty banter between Guy and Steel, was the fact that when push came to shove, these heroes shoved *hard*! I never thought I'd see the day where Steel would force a villain's fist down his own throat—in his own book, he seems so much calmer—but this is the sort of behavior he should exhibit more often. Maybe he's just like that when he hangs around Guy, and starts thinking he's back in college.

Circe is a bit of a mystery to me. I always got the impression that she was a class "A" ...uh...witch (this is still a Code book, no?). But apparently there's some sort of a heart underneath all of that attitude. Still, I can't believe she'll get away with making a monkey out of Ares. So when's he coming after her?

"Bad Head Day" was a good-looking story in this Steel-heavy issue (no complaints on my part). Great color, solid art. Officer Shauna Beryl has always reminded me of the "Lady Cop" feature from FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL, and this story makes me wonder if it isn't time to start a non-super-hero "Police Women" title. It was a laugh, though, watching her try to arrest Metallo. Like he's really gonna take her seriously with her .45! I guess Metal-head's days are numbered now that he's got a brain tumor. Neron plays a tough game of cards. Are there any more UNDERWORLD follow-ups in the works? Looking forward to Black Canary and Lois Lane next month. Thanks!

DAVID REECE  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

No...thank you, David. I'm glad that you support Steel's new policies when it comes to dealing with villains. If you're checking out STEEL, you'll notice that he's actually getting angrier and deadlier. He's taken enough guff from Hazard and is fighting back hard. No more Mr. Nice Steel! As for UNDERWORLD follow-ups, you will be seeing repercussions from UNDERWORLD

UNLEASHED in all of DC's books (including this one!)



Dear Jason,

SHOWCASE '96 #2 was awesome!!

I honestly have to say that stories like "Good Guy, Bad Guy and the Other Guys" are why I read comics. I can't believe how incredible the artwork was! Three...count them, three outrageous double-page spreads!!!! Those spreads were really gorgeous. I looked at them again and again after I'd finished the story. Sergio Cariello is a dynamite penciller! This reminded me of Marvel comics from the early eighties (some of the best comics out there).

I also quite enjoyed the two backup stories. The "Circe" story was very interesting and I'm glad you got Christopher Priest to write it. I (like many other fans, I assume) have been waiting eagerly to see Mr. Priest write this character again after two dynamite issues of WONDER WOMAN a couple of years back. He didn't disappoint me, either. This story sets up some nice changes for Circe, and I look forward to her next encounter with Diana.

The "Metallo" story was also quite good. I must say that this story was probably one of the best things that Louise Simonson has written in the last decade. (Why not put Beau Smith on Steel?) And the art? Absolutely wonderful! I have always liked something about William Rosado's artwork, and I must say that I don't think it ever looked this good before! I attribute this to Prentiss Rollins's inks. Please have Mr. Rollins ink Mr. Rosado more!

Looking forward to Black Canary and Lois Lane next month!

CLINT McNAUGHTON  
1027 W. DUBOIS STREET  
HYDE PARK, NEW YORK 12603

Thanks for the kind words, Clint. I agree with you wholeheartedly about Priest's take on Circe. As soon as I had decided that I wanted to showcase Circe, one name popped into my mind immediately. It was only a few minutes more before I was up to my elbows in my first of several plotting conferences with Priest. Hope you stick with us; we've got some pretty wild stories coming up this year!



Dear Jason and all you fellows at DC Comics:

It's been a while since I've written, but the excellence of SHOWCASE '96 thus far has compelled me to crank up the old PC.

Part two of the Guy/Steel team-up: Wow! These two characters seem to really come alive in each other's company. I don't think I've ever before read a story where two straight heroes decide to end an annoying battle by just being as brutally violent as possible. And though I'm not a fan of violent stories per se, this one was funny and a nice relief from pretentious storylines common to lots of titles these days. Sergio Cariello should have a regular book! This guy's art is really fun! Rob



Leigh's inks were excellent once again.

Circe's little eastern-European adventure was quite unexpected. Priest is a refreshing writer who always can tell a simple story with lots of entertaining details. I've never seen the work of artist J. Alex Morrissey or inker Chip Wallace before. Interesting stuff reminiscent of Michael Golden. One question, though. Didn't Circe make a pact with Neron for new powers? Did she display her new powers here? And also, if she's now bonded to humanity, why did she team with Neron at all? Except for these questions, I really liked this story.

Regarding the Metallo story:...So let me get this straight. The price of his new powers is a brain tumor? That leaves this villain in sort of desperate straits, considering his brain is the last living part of his body. Any plans for a return appearance of Metallo in SUPERMAN or STEEL? How about in SUPERBOY? Ah, I just like Metallo. I like this story very much—Louise Simonson did a great job portraying ordinary people facing a pompous but extremely powerful creature. I like the way the two women from Steel's "personal" life sort of "teamed up." I was glad to see artist Will Rosado drawing this character. He seems very suited to mechanical menaces. Hope we'll see him again soon, too. Ditto for embellisher Prentis Rollins. These two make a great team.

Looking forward to more Super team-ups!

**SVETLANA METROVICH**  
CUERO, TEXAS

*Svetlana, it's always great to hear from you. You may rest assured that you will be getting quality Super team-ups from us for the rest of the year! With regard to your comments about the Circe story: you've hit the nail on the head. Circe has a very serious paradox that she needs to deal with. While she has been a self-centered evil character for centuries, suddenly her bonding with a human has created a hitherto unseen compassion—a compassion that is only felt for women and children...Rest assured, Svetlana, that we will see how this moral dyslexia continues to prey on Circe.*

♥ ♥ ♥

Dear Frank, Jason and Chris,

This time I'll be quick.

SHOWCASE '96 #2 kicked off with a delightful story featuring Guy Gardner: Warrior and Steel. I'm not a

great fan of either hero, but they worked well together (their joshing exchanges were as funny as any "Say, Man" suite on Chess's Bo Diddley Box!) and I'd love to see another pairing of them somewhere...perhaps with Guy putting together a reference to "the Hair Club for Men" and a quotation from an old coach deducing that Steel and John Henry Irons are one and the same!

After that, though, it was downhill. The Circe story had a good ending and Priest treated Circe's current situation with a lot of intriguing ambiguity, but Ares's discoursing was incredibly dull and the topical references meant little. The belligerents may be battling in "God's" name, but it's a cinch that the God is monolithic and doesn't hail from Olympus.

Similarly, the Metallo episode had a good ending, although it was more ominous than thought-provoking. But "Bad Head Day" required more interest in its protagonist than I could muster, and there didn't seem to be any ambiguity to discover in him, as there was in Circe. Worst of all, he looked like a kissing cousin of Shrapnel.

SHOWCASE '96 #2 didn't offer a good way to end a year, but as the true 1996 kicks in with #3, my expectations are high. How could they not be? Lois Lane, Black Canary and Oracle Deadman! (With Jamie Delano scripting? Wade Von Grawbadger artwork? I'll enjoy that!) Lightray!! (YEAH YEAH YEAH!!!!!!) Sounds great to me.

So, until then, thank you for your time.

**CHARLES J. SPERLING**  
FLUSHING, NEW YORK

*Sorry our post-UNDERWORLD UNLEASHED stories didn't seem to grab you by the short pants, Charles. I thought I'd bring it to your attention, however, that Metallo is, in fact, a kissing cousin of Shrapnel... as is Editor Frank Pittarese.*

♥ ♥ ♥

*Well that's all for this edition of CASE STUDIES...don't forget to write!*

#### CASE STUDIES

c/o Jason Hernandez-Rosenblatt  
DC COMICS  
1700 Broadway  
New York, NY 10019

Jason Hernandez-Rosenblatt  
—not a kissing cousin to Shrapnel

## NEXT ISSUE:



In the latest episode of SUPERBOY: THE ANIMATED SERIES, the cartoon Kid of Steel visits Project Cadmus, where he's tricked into summoning a demon—but when the DEMON ETRIGAN appears, all hell breaks loose—literally. When FIRESTORM enters a rehab clinic, his powers go out of control in a story by Robert Washington and Randy DuBurke. Last, but not least, Ray Palmer attends his high school reunion, but only as the ATOM can he save the life of a suicidal former girlfriend in a story written by Anthony Martin, pencilled by Derec Aucoin, and inked by Jason Martin.

HAVE A COMPUTER? GOT A MODEM?

FREE  
DC COMICS ONLINE  
STARTER KIT  
1-800-203-2600

**DC COMICS** JENETTE KAHN President & Editor-in-Chief PAUL LEVITZ Executive VP & Publisher

FRANK PITTARESE Editor

JOE ORLANDO VP — Creative Director TOM BALLOU VP — Advertising

BRUCE BRISTOW VP — Sales & Marketing PATRICK CALDON VP — Finance & Operations

TERRI CUNNINGHAM Managing Editor CHANTAL D'AULNIS VP — Licensed Publishing

JOEL EHRLICH Senior VP — Advertising & Promotions LILLIAN LASERSON VP & General Counsel

BOB ROZAKIS Executive Director — Production